



# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## Education Services Newsletter

Fall/2009



### In this issue:

**Clark County School District "Keep Your Eye on the CAP"**



**C for CLIMATE**

**A for for ACTIVITY**

**P for PARTICIPATION**

**Florence McClure Correctional Center Graduation Celebration**

**Joblessness and Jailing for High School Dropouts and the High Cost for Taxpayers**

**Literacy for Life: Classroom Behind Bars**

**Innovative Program of the Quarter**

**Inside Out Dad**

## Clark County School District "Keep Your Eye on the CAP!"

Each year local School Districts review prior year's performance and set goals for the upcoming academic year. During 2008-09 Clark County School District which serves SDCC, FMCC, HDSP, HDCC and Jean CC, succeeded and surpassed set goals in many areas. Here are some of their highlights:

- 546 meritorious credit recommendations were given to inmates that received their GED, High School Diploma, or vocational certification. In addition to vocational training, 23 students became EPA certified by passing the Environmental Protection Agency's nationally recognized examination for HVAC.
- The Adult Education Correctional Centers serviced 2,610 students during the school year with the awarding of 255 GED certificates, 128 high school diplomas, and 162 vocational certificates.
- Monthly Principal's meetings were held with the Clark County School District and the administrative staff of the Nevada Department of Corrections as a collaborative means of improving student achievement, communication, and safety for all students and staff.
- Continuous GED and NHSPE preparation class were offered during and after school, with frequent and regular testing opportunities for students.
- 75% of students passed all parts of the GED test through highly focused preparation classes and after hours tutoring.
- Learning labs were available for struggling students as they prepared for the proficiency and GED exams.
- Inmate education libraries were established to provide reading materials for educational and/or reading pleasure for inmates at all four institutional sites.

## Florence McClure Graduation Ceremony October 7<sup>th</sup> 2009

A highly anticipated and emotional graduation ceremony was held at Florence McClure Correctional Center earlier this month. Due to construction projects graduates were delayed their public recognition for over four months. However the delay did not seem to diminish their enthusiasm. It looked just like any graduation, except for the gate locking everyone in, and the uniform under the cap and gown.



CCSD Executive Director, Bradley Waldron (left) and keynote speaker CCSD Director, Stacey Keonen (right) congratulate graduates.



## Florence McClure Graduation Ceremony October 7<sup>th</sup> 2009

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I watched in admiration while over fifty women in graduation caps and gowns walked up to the podium and received their certificates/diplomas and shook hands with dignitaries. For some of the women, this was the first big accomplishment in their lives. When asked what motivated them, for those with children it was always my son or daughter. Many graduates spoke of being a better role model for their children even through this tough time. The graduation ceremony was also an opportunity for family and friends to see, some for the first time, their family member graduate. As is often heard at graduation.....

*They may have lost their freedom, but their education can never be taken away. Congratulations Graduates!*



Distinguished guests from CCSD and CSN joined Principal Froby in congratulating students who have completed vocational training certificates.



Florence McClure Correctional Center  
CCSD Class of 2009 (red)  
CSN Class of 2009 (blue)

## The Consequences of Dropping Out of High School

### Joblessness and Jailing for High School Dropouts and the High Cost for Taxpayers

On any given day, about one in every 10 young male high school dropouts is in jail or juvenile detention, compared with one in 35 young male high school graduates, according to a new study prepared by Center for Labor Market Studies and Northeastern University Boston, Massachusetts October 2009, on the effects of dropping out of school in an America where demand for low-skill workers is plunging.

The study also found young female dropouts were nine times more likely to have become single mothers than young women who went on to earn college degrees. The number of unmarried young women having children has increased sharply in some communities in part, because large numbers of young men have dropped out of school and are jobless year round. The dropout rate is driving the nation's increasing prison population and severely impacting America's economic competitiveness.

The new study makes it clear that every American pays a cost when a young person leaves school without a diploma. The report puts the collective cost to the nation over the working life of each high school dropout at \$292,000. This figure takes into account lost tax revenues, since dropouts earn less and therefore pay less in taxes than high school graduates. It also includes the costs of providing food stamps and other aid to dropouts and of incarcerating those who turn to crime. The new report, in its analysis of 2008 unemployment rates, found that 54 percent of dropouts ages 16 to 24 were jobless, compared with 32 percent for high school graduates of the same age.

## Literacy for Life: Classroom Behind Bars

Excerpt from Nevada Appeal Sunday, October 11, 2009 By Teri Vance

### Programs Reduce Risk of Re-offending

For Ferd Mariani, Director of Carson City's Adult Education Program that extends to prisons, the reason for educating inmates is simple. "About 95 percent of students who are incarcerated are going to get out," he said. "The more education they receive, the more likely they are to become a better citizen and the more likely it is they won't return to a life of crime."

A mind once stretched by  
a new idea never regains  
its original dimensions.  
- Anonymous



## Programs Reduce Risk of Re-offending

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James Adams, 33, knows that cycle. He's lived it. He first went to prison at 16 and has been in and out since. He didn't care that he missed out on high school and had no plans of getting an education. "I was young and (stupid)," he said. "I just wasn't into it then, too much running around in the yard." But now, serving his time at Northern Nevada Correctional Center, things have changed. "Now I'm 33 years old and have a kid out there," he said. "I can't very well tell her to be going to school every day when I'm not doing it myself. I don't want her to have any excuses to drop out. I want her to be better than me."

Antonio Hernandez, 24, hopes his education will help provide a better life for him and his 4-year-old daughter once he gets out. Kicked out of Carson High School in 2002, he struggled to make ends meet working minimum-wage jobs. Once the baby came, living paycheck to paycheck got even harder. Then a friend of a cousin offered him a job for more money than he'd ever made before. "I took a chance and did it, and little by little started making good money," he said. "I ended up selling drugs in the dope game. But eventually you get caught." At the time, he said, he saw it as the best way to provide for his family. "Now that I'm in prison, I see things differently," he said. "I know if I wouldn't have come to prison, I'd probably be out there doing the same thing." He's counting on his education to keep him clean. "If they didn't have school here, I think you'd just go back to your old life," he said.



## Inside Out Dad Program Innovative Program of the Quarter

The social, economic, and emotional impacts of parents who are incarcerated are clearly suffered by the children of these parents. The National Institute of Corrections noted that, "Parental arrest and confinement lead to stress, trauma, stigmatization, and separation problems for the children. These problems are coupled with existing troubles that include poverty, violence, parental substance abuse, high crime environments, intra-family abuse, abuse and neglect, multiple care givers, or prior separations. As a result, these children often exhibit a broad variety of behavioral, emotional, health, and educational problems that are compounded by the pain of separation". In addition, children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely than other children to be incarcerated at some point in their lives.

Parents also feel the strain of separation from their families. There are many benefits to keeping the families intact even though a parent is incarcerated. Less strain and stress for both children and parents have been noted, and parents who are incarcerated can still be involved in their children's lives in a positive way. Parental contact can build supportive and healthy relationships that help both the parents and children especially upon the offender's reentry back into the community. The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents estimates there are 2.8 million minor children with incarcerated parents in prisons and jails (2006).

Research shows that inmates who are connected to their families are more likely to successfully reenter society. The Inside-Out Dad reentry program reaches men on the Inside and prepares them for life when they get Out by helping them explore and heal from their pasts, while developing healthy emotions, reconnecting to their families, and planning for the future. The curriculum bridges the gap between inmate/ex-offender and his children. This is accomplished by breaking down the barriers to assimilating back into society. Discussion of emotional barriers such as shame, guilt and detachment between them and their children are addressed. Positive emotional substitutes are offered such as words of encouragement, acts of kindness, sensitivity and empathy. The men explore their pasts to help set new goals for their futures. They discover the possibility that they can parent differently from their own experience as a child.

***"I would do anything to help promote this program. It changed my life and the life of my kids!" -former inmate***

The Inside Out Dad Program is offered to inmates at both Southern Desert Correctional Center and High Desert Correctional Center.



*Have you ever been at sea in a dense fog, when it seemed as if a tangible white darkness shut you in and the great ship, tense and anxious, groped her way toward the shore with plummet and sounding-line, and you waited with beating heart for something to happen? I was like that ship before my education began, only I was without compass or sounding line, and no way of knowing how near the harbor was. "Light! Give me light!" was the wordless cry of my soul, and the light of love shone on me in that very hour. Helen Keller*

